

Washington, DC -- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), Chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, today thanked the House Veterans Affairs Committee for moving his Open Burn Pit Registry Act forward. The Open Burn Pit Registry Act ([H.R. 3337](#)), which Congressman Akin introduced last fall, would create a registry for veterans who are afflicted with health issues that may be due to exposure to burn pits in Iraq or Afghanistan. The bill has over 70 bipartisan cosponsors and has been endorsed by numerous veterans organizations. The VA Committee combined H.R. 3337 with a handful of other veterans bills to create a package of bill under a new bill number, H.R. 4057. The combined package is expected to be considered in the House later this summer.

Congressman Akin released the following statement:

“We have sent our best and brightest young men and women into harm’s way, and it is our responsibility as a nation to take care of them when they return. There is a growing body of evidence that burn pits have had tragic effects on the health of some of our returning veterans. We need to deal with this problem proactively to ensure that our veterans get the best possible care and support.

“I thank Chairman Miller and Chairman Buerkle for their support of this legislation and look forward to its consideration by the full House of Representatives.”

BACKGROUND

The Open Burn Pit Registry was introduced by Congressman Akin on November 3, 2011. It currently has 72 bipartisan cosponsors and has been endorsed by the following military and veterans organizations:

- Air Force Association (AFA)
- American Legion
- American Veterans (AMVETS)
- Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
- Burn Pits 360
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

- Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- National Military Family Association (NMFA)
- Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
- The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
- Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees (USDR)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Text of the bill and cosponsors are available here: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.112hr3337>

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